

BUY A BOND, OH, BUY A BOND

ROBINSON SINGS THIS SONG, NOT PRESIDENT TAFT.

See Might Think It Was the President Upon Looking at the Optimist's Circular, but His Name at the Bottom Turns Out to Be Merely a Coincidence.

The Optimist's Magazine, promoted by W. J. Robinson, Optimist at Large of the Optimist Club of America, has reached that ripe stage in its development where bonds are offered for sale.

Only the fortunate few, the 12,000 or 15,000 who have paid \$1 each to join Mr. Robinson's good cheer club and become members, are eligible to subscribe for the bonds. There are only \$250,000 of them, and registered optimists who want to get in on the ground floor have got to hurry or Robinson will gladly take them himself. According to the chief optimist's circular letters, the offer will close on May 7 and he will avail himself of the opportunity that other optimists may have neglected.

If any of Mr. Robinson's fellow good cheerists have bought any of the bonds under the belief that President Taft, Mrs. Taft, ex-President Roosevelt, Andrew Carnegie, Joseph H. Choate and a few others are vouching for them they are to be disillusioned. Also if anybody has got that impression it is through no intentional fault of Optimist at Large Robinson. The appearance of the names of the Optimist club's honorary executive committee, including the above distinguished citizens, at the end of Robinson's bond issue circular, right under his own signature, is a mere coincidence.

The stationery of the Optimist Club of America, it seems that is the very latest stationery, not the old lot—has the names of this honorary executive committee at the bottom of the last page. Mr. Robinson, without giving this circumstance a thought, sent out the announcement of the bond offering on this stationery. Here is the circular dated April 22:

DEAR OPTIMIST: It is an admitted fact that never before in the history of the American nation has any movement looking toward the uplifting of the public mind grown to such large and far reaching proportions as the Optimist Club of America.

The members of the executive committee, realizing this fact, have decided to give permanence to the movement through the publication of the Optimist's Magazine, which already has a large paid subscription list and bids fair to be one of the most important publications in America. Prominent financial interests stand ready to supply all the necessary capital.

Before considering any proposals the executive committee have decided that the members of the Optimist Club have the prior right to subscribe to the securities now to be offered, which will be sold at a price of \$1.00 per bond, and fifty thousand dollars in bonds (fifty thousand of which are already subscribed), bearing 7 per cent. interest, being a first lien on all earnings, both for principal and interest, under the following conditions:

1. No member can subscribe for more than \$1,000 or less than \$50.
2. At the end of fifteen days from date this offer is valid and no bonds can be obtained.

3. Every subscriber to the bonds becomes a life subscriber to the Optimist's Magazine. You will find enclosed some authentic information in regard to magazine earnings. You will also find a subscription blank to the bonds.

Knowing the conditions so well, I have proposed to the executive committee that any bonds unsubscribed I will gladly take myself.

Trusting you will give this your earliest consideration, I am, very respectfully,
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON,
Optimist at Large.

The above letter, with the exception of Robinson's signature, was typewritten. Under the chief Optimist's signature appears this in black type:

HONORARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
Andrew Carnegie, President.
Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, Vice-President.
Hon. William H. Taft, Secretary.
Hon. John C. Miller, Treasurer.
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Strictly of course it is Robinson and Robinson only who are selling prospective bondholders in this circular that the Optimist's Magazine "bids fair to be one of the most important publications in America," but owing to the careless coincidence the average reader might easily gather the idea that President Taft and the other members of that honorary executive committee were adding the weight of their voices to the Robinson statements.

Then also the wording of the circular might be more explicit in spots. For instance, it isn't exactly clear what "executive committee" the Optimist at Large is talking about in the body of his circular. The executive committee to which he refers has been doing a lot of things. It has realized "the large and far reaching proportions" of the good cheer movement; it has decided upon the publication of the Optimist's Magazine; it has decided the prior right to buy the bonds; finally it has received Robinson's own proposal to take for himself the bonds that are unsubscribed. After reading all this, the reader does one bump up at the end of the circular against that awe inspiring honorary executive committee, and if a fellow is careless he is likely to be unduly impressed.

But if the prospective bondholder happens to have read Robinson's little circular, "What is the Optimist Club?" he may even be under the impression that the "executive committee" mentioned in the body of the circular and the great honorary committee are one and the same; for, doubtless, Robinson, when speaking in that circular of his good cheer organization, says:

"The President of the United States, the President of Canada, Mr. Andrew Carnegie and many other prominent men and women compose its executive committee."

Robinson himself seemed at first to be a little hazy on just what "executive committee" was referred to in the bond offering circular, but as he himself explained later this was due to a misunderstanding of the questions that had been asked.

When asked at first how many executive committees the Optimist Club has he said: "Only one—the honorary executive committee." He said that the committee referred to in the body of the circular was the honorary executive committee; then he said it was the executive committee of the Optimist's Magazine; and finally, when he fully understood the question, that it was an inner executive committee of the Optimist Club, which ran the active organization work. That inner committee is made up, he said, of himself, I. M. Nash, his deputy, the Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Slicer, who is to edit the magazine, and another.

It was about this time that it occurred to Mr. Robinson that the placing of the names of the honorary executive committee at the foot of the circular might lead to the idea that they shared responsibility for the statements.

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Specials.

Woman Injured When Lantern Slide Fell From Balcony—Operator Was Working for Performing Company, but House Manager Is Held Responsible.

Justice Kelly in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, has denied the motion to set aside the verdict of \$10,000 awarded to Mrs. Clara F. Thomas in her suit against John F. Springer, manager of the Grand Opera House, Manhattan, for personal injuries. While the plaintiff was attending the theatre with her husband, Charles R. Thomas, and seated in the first balcony, a lantern slide operated on the upper balcony fell through the carelessness, as alleged, of the man operating it and struck her on the head. In the course of his extended decision setting forth the duty of theatre managers to their patrons Justice Kelly says: